

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please replace the two drawing sheets amending Figs. 1 and 2 with the attached two (2) Replacement Sheets.

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 8-25 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 11 and 23 are the independent claims. By this Amendment, claim 7 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. The drawings and claims 1, 9, 11 and 23 are amended. No new matter is added.

Information Disclosure Statement

US Patent Application 2002/0130557 to Dickhoff has been struck-through in the initialed Form PTO-1449 returned by the Examiner. It is alleged that the reference listed as US 2002/130557 is not a reference to Dickhoff, but rather a reference to "Katayama." However, a search of patent application publication numbers conducted through the USPTO website uncovers no such reference to Katayama. The Examiner also recognizes that US 2002/0130557 is a reference to Dickhoff

To clarify the cited reference, a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) is filed concurrently herewith to correct the alleged typographical error in the publication number listed on the IDS filed February 8, 2006. Applicant further points out that "dropping" the first zero in the patent application number is a well accepted convention, as evidenced, for example, by the International Search Report filed with the present application listing the reference to Dickhoff as US 2002/130557.

Amendments to the Drawings

The drawings are objected to because reference character 1 is allegedly used to represent both a protective device and an emergency stop device. The objection is traversed as the Examiner has not identified which figure is alleged to identify two separate features.

Moreover, a review of the figures shows that Fig. 1 is used only once in the figures and therefore does not represent more than one feature in the drawings. Thus, as the reference number is used in only a single view of one drawing the reference number does not designate different parts. Further, as clearly recited in the specification at paragraph [0004], the protective device 1 may also be referred to as an emergency stop device. Therefore, reference number 1 does not designate different parts and the drawings comply with 37 CFR §1.84(p)(4).

Figures 1 and 2 are also objected to for allegedly requiring a legend in compliance with MPEP §608.02(g). Figures 1 and 2 are amended to include the legend “Related Art” in compliance with MPEP §608.02(g).

The drawings are further objected to under 37 CFR §1.83(a) for allegedly failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Applicant respectfully requests that the feature or features recited in claims that are alleged not to be shown in the figures be pointed out with specificity so that Applicant may properly identify the claim feature in the figures.

It is alleged that the drawings fail to show “the interconnection of the edge evaluation unit and the pulse processing device (figure 4) with the circuit of figure 3.” Applicant submits that one of skill in the art would readily understand the interconnection between Fig. 3 and Fig. 4 upon a reading of the specification. For example, as described at paragraph [0037], the pushbutton 33 is actuated as a result of the L-H-L pulse 401 generated as shown in Fig. 4 (see also paragraph [0033]).

As each of the claim features is shown in the drawings, the drawings are in compliance with 37 CFR §1.83(a). Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Specification Objections

The specification is objected to for allegedly designating the “protective device” and the “emergency stop device” with the same label. As no basis in rule or law is provided for objecting to the specification, Applicant is unable to determine the grounds of the objection.

Further, as clearly recited in the specification at paragraph [0004], the protective device 1 may also be referred to as an emergency stop device. As the two devices are the same the specification correctly provides a “label” for the device. Therefore, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claim 9 is objected to for lack of antecedent basis for recitation of “the first input.” As claim 9 is amended to correct the antecedent basis issue, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 7 is indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. As the independent claims are amended to recite the subject matter of allowable claim 7, all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102/103

Claims 1, 4-9, 11, 14-20 and 22-25 are rejected under 35 USC §102(a) as being anticipated by US Patent Application Publication 2002/015568 to Clement, et al. (Clement). Claims 2, 3, 10, 12, 13 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over

Clement in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0195883 to Lazzaro, et al. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

As claim 7 is indicated as being allowable, Applicant understands the rejection of claim 7 under 35 USC §102(a) is an error. In the event claim 7 is not allowable, Applicant asserts that the next Office Action cannot be made final.

As discussed above, the subject matter of allowable claim 7 is incorporated into the amended independent claims. Therefore, none of the remaining pending claims are anticipated by Clement. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the objections and rejections and allowance of each of the pending claims of this application is earnestly solicited.

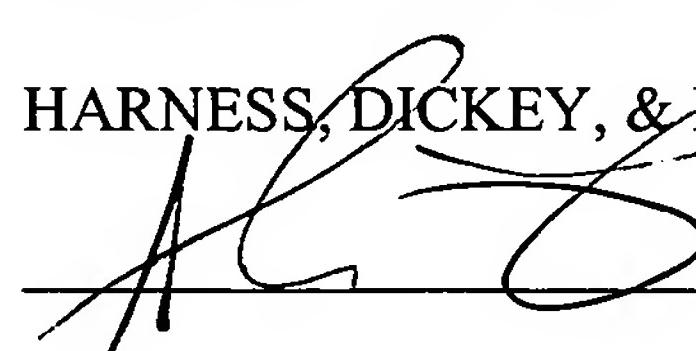
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John W. Fitzpatrick at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By


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